

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-46. (cancelled)

47. (previously presented) A process of preparing a thermoset comprising the steps of:  
reacting a dihydroxyaromatic with a dihaloaromatic;  
wherein the reaction is performed in the presence of a copper compound and a base; and  
wherein the dihydroxyaromatic is present in an excess amount;  
reacting a 3- or 4-nitrophthalonitrile with the product of the previous step; and  
curing a mixture comprising the product of the previous step.
48. (original) The process of claim 47:  
wherein the dihydroxyaromatic is selected from the group consisting of resorcinol, hydroquinone, and combinations thereof; and  
wherein the dihaloaromatic is selected from the group consisting of m-dibromobenzene, p-dibromobenzene, m-diiodobenzene, p-diiodobenzene, m-bromoiodobenzene, p-bromoiodobenzene, and combinations thereof;  
and
49. (original) The process of claim 47, wherein the copper compound is selected from the group consisting of CuI and CuBr.
50. (original) The process of claim 47, wherein the mixture comprises more than one phthalonitrile monomer.

51. (original) The process of claim 47, wherein the mixture further comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-bis(3,4-dicyanophenoxy)biphenyl, bis[4-(3,4-dicyanophenoxy)phenyl]dimethylmethane, bis[4-(2,3-dicyanophenoxy)phenyl]dimethylmethane, bis[4-(3,4-dicyanophenoxy)phenyl]-bis(trifluoromethyl)methane, bis[4-(2,3-dicyanophenoxy)phenyl]-bis(trifluoromethyl)methane, 1,3-bis(3,4-dicyanophenoxy)benzene, and 1,4-bis(3,4-dicyanophenoxy)benzene.
52. (original) The process of claim 47, wherein the mixture further comprises a compound with one or more phthalonitrile groups.
53. (original) The process of claim 47, wherein the mixture further comprises a curing agent.
54. (original) The process of claim 53, wherein the curing agent is selected from the group consisting of aromatic amines, primary amines, secondary amines, diamines, polyamines, amine-substituted phosphazenes, phenols, strong acids, organic acids, strong organic acids, inorganic acids, metals, metallic salts, metallic salt hydrates, metallic compounds, halogen-containing aromatic amines, clays, and chemically modified clays.
55. (original) The process of claim 53, wherein the curing agent is selected from the group consisting of bis[4-(4-aminophenoxy)phenyl]sulfone, 1,4-bis(3-aminophenoxy)benzene, 1,12-diaminododecanediphenylamine, epoxy amine hardener, 1,6-hexanediamine, 1,3-phenylenediamine, p-toluenesulfonic acid, cuprous iodide, cuprous bromide, stannous chloride, stannous chloride hydrates, stannous chloride dihydrate, aluminum nitrate hydrates, aluminum nitrate nonahydrate, montmorillonite, and chemically modified montmorillonite.
56. (previously presented) The process of claim 47, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of cesium carbonate and potassium carbonate.